

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Nicholas R. Bachur, Jr.

SERIAL NO.: Continuation of USSN 09/892,012 GROUP: 1744

FILING DATE: Filed Herewith EXAMINER: D. A. Redding

FOR: System and Method for Optically Monitoring the Concentration of a Gas in a Sample Vial Using Photothermal Spectroscopy to Detect Sample Growth

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT PRIOR TO CALCULATING FILING FEE**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of the subject Rule 1.53(b) continuation application, Applicants request entry of the following amendments.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

As the first line of the specification, please insert --This is a continuation of US application Serial No. 09/892,012, filed June 26, 2001.--

Respectfully submitted,



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